

Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled, "Tax Haven Banks and U.S. Tax Compliance—Obtaining the Names of U.S. Clients with Swiss Accounts." This hearing will continue the Subcommittee's examination of financial institutions which are located in offshore tax havens and which use practices that facilitate tax evasion and other misconduct by U.S. clients. One of the banks featured in a July 2008 hearing on this topic is UBS, a major financial institution headquartered in Switzerland. The hearing will examine issues related to a John Doe summons served by the IRS on UBS seeking the names of U.S. clients with UBS Swiss accounts that have not been disclosed to the IRS. In July, UBS representatives estimated that about 19,000 U.S. clients had about \$18 billion in assets in such Swiss accounts. UBS stated at the July 2008 hearing that it would cooperate with the IRS summons, but to date virtually none of the requested information has been provided to either the IRS or the U.S. Department of Justice which is also examining the matter. The hearing will examine the status of the information exchange, the role of U.S.-Swiss tax and legal assistance treaties, and the effect of Swiss secrecy laws on the information requests. A witness list will be available Friday, February 20, 2009.

The Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 202-224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2009 at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009, immediately following the Committee's business meeting at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Structuring National Security and Homeland Security at the White House."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct an executive business meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to meet, during the session of the Senate in the Reception Room, immediately off the Floor to conduct a

vote on the Committee's budget and rules for the 111th Congress. The Committee will meet immediately after the first roll call vote occurring on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 12, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 17, the nomination of Leon Panetta to be Director of the CIA; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Leon E. Panetta, of California, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today as chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence on the Senate's confirmation of Leon Panetta to be the next Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Panetta is well-known to many of us for his long, distinguished record of public service, including eight terms in Congress and service as a presidential chief of staff.

Mr. Panetta knows well the inner workings of government at the highest levels. He has an impeccable reputation for integrity, and I am confident that he is the right man at the right time to lead the CIA.

Leon Panetta is a product of my home State, California, born in Monterey. His parents, Carmelo and Carmelina, ran a local cafe and later purchased a walnut ranch, which he still owns. He majored in political science at Santa Clara University, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1960.

In 1963, he received his JD from Santa Clara University as well. After law school, he served in the United States Army from 1964 to 1966, and attended the Army Intelligence School.

In 1966, Mr. Panetta joined the Washington, DC, staff of Republican Senator Thomas Kuchel of California.

In 1969, he served as Director of the Office of Civil Rights in the Office of

Health, Education and Welfare in the Nixon Administration.

From 1970 to 1971, he worked as the executive assistant to New York City Mayor John Lindsay. Afterward, he returned to Monterey, to private law practice.

In 1976, he ran and won election to the U.S. House of Representatives, and he served in the House for 16 years. During that time, he also served as chairman of the Budget Committee.

In 1993, he joined the Clinton administration as head of the Office of Management and Budget. In July 1994, Mr. Panetta became President Clinton's chief of staff.

He served in that capacity until January 1997, when he returned to California to found and lead the Leon and Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy at California State University Monterey Bay.

Mr. Panetta and his wife, Sylvia, have three sons and five grandchildren.

It is very fair and safe for me to say that he has a reputation for intelligence and integrity.

In speaking with Mr. Panetta and President Obama multiple times, I am convinced that Mr. Panetta will surround himself with career professionals, including Deputy Director Stephen Kappes. He has committed to keeping the senior leadership of the CIA in place, but at the same time has vowed to bring new policies and new leadership to the Agency.

I know Mr. Panetta has immersed himself in CIA matters since being nominated, and his top priority, if confirmed, will be to conduct a complete review of all the Agency's activities.

Moreover, I strongly believe that the CIA needs a Director who will take the reins of the Agency and provide the supervision and oversight so that this agency, which operates in a clandestine world of its own, must have.

President Obama has made clear that his selection of Leon Panetta was intended as a clean break from the past—a break from secret detentions and coercive interrogations; a break from outsourcing its work to a small army of contractors; and a break from analysis that was not only wrong, but the product of bad practice that helped lead our Nation to war.

President Obama said when announcing this nomination that this will be a CIA Director “who has my complete trust and substantial clout.”

This is a hugely important but difficult post. The CIA is the largest civilian intelligence agency with the most disparate of missions.

It produces the most strategic analysis of the intelligence agencies and it is the center for human intelligence collection. It is unique in that it carries out covert action programs, implementing policy through intelligence channels. The Intelligence Committee held confirmation hearings on Mr. Panetta's nomination on February 5 and 6.

Our responsibility was clear: to make sure that Leon Panetta will be a Direc-

tor who makes the CIA effective in what it does—but also to make sure that it operates in a professional manner that reflects the true values of this country.

The committee did its work. It questioned Mr. Panetta on a broad array of issues he will confront as Director of the CIA, and it submitted followup questions, all of which were answered.

These questions, and Mr. Panetta's answers, can be found at the Intelligence Committee Web site.

I urge all Members of the Senate, as well as the public, to review them in order to obtain a better understanding of his views about the office to which he has been nominated.

I am pleased to report that yesterday the Intelligence Committee voted unanimously to report favorably the nomination of Leon Panetta to be the Director of the CIA. He has the confidence of the committee, and we believe we will be able to work closely with him during his tenure.

Leon Panetta will mark a new beginning for the CIA as its next Director.

He has the integrity, the drive and the judgment to ensure that the CIA fulfills its mission of producing information critical to our national security, without sacrificing our national values.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

COLONEL JOHN H. WILSON, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 21, S. 234.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 234) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2105 East Cook Street in Springfield, Illinois, as the “Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 234) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 234

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COLONEL JOHN H. WILSON, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2105

East Cook Street in Springfield, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the “Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building”.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTEN- NIAL OF OREGON STATEHOOD

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 48, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 48) honoring the sesquicentennial of Oregon statehood.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

(Mr. BEGICH assumed the Chair.)

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, we rise to offer this resolution in recognition of a historic day for my STATE and the people of Oregon. On February 14, 1859, 150 years ago, President James Buchanan signed the bill that admitted Oregon as the 33rd STATE to join this great union.

Mr. President, 150 years ago, there were barely 50,000 people living in Oregon. Pictures from that era show hearty men and women standing in mud streets in front of clapboard buildings. That would soon change as thousands migrated across the continent on the Oregon Trail, a trek that would become synonymous with the American spirit.

Those who made that arduous journey were not nomads aimlessly wandering the land looking for a quick buck. They came with a purpose: to work hard and to make a new start in a new land. And what a new land it was. Oregon was graced by providence with endless forests, rivers teeming with fish, fertile valleys, majestic mountains, a dramatic coast line, and rugged high deserts.

Today, more than 3,500,000 people live in Oregon, which continues to boast some of the NATION's most unique and beautiful forests, farm lands, mountains, coast line and high deserts. They still beckon to those who seek a better life, much in the same way as those who endured the Oregon Trail. In some parts of Oregon the tracks made by the pioneers covered wagons are still visible, forever etched in the landscape.

Oregon has its geographic icons such as the Columbia River, Crater Lake, and Mount Hood. It has its great names: Wayne Morse, Mark Hatfield, Tom McCall. It has been a national leader with innovations such as an initiative stem that dates back to the turn of the last century, a beach bill, a bottle bill and a statewide land use planning process to protect those things that brought people to Oregon in the first place.